



Long-distance romance: Y or N? 4

Honey + sparkling water = yum 12



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# HOW ICY IS THE LAKE?

## DESPITE COLD, LAKE MICHIGAN ICE SIGNIFICANTLY DOWN THIS YEAR

By Kyle Bentle | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Lake Michigan might look frigid and icy around the edges, but it's nothing compared with last year. A recent cold snap increased the amount of ice on the lake, but overall the mild winter has kept the lake free of extensive coverage.

As of Tuesday, about 16 percent of Lake Michigan was covered by ice, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory. That's below average for the lake, normally around 27 percent. Jia Wang, an ice climatologist at the research lab, said the reason for the low ice coverage is a combination of multiple weather phenomena impacting the Great Lakes, including El Nino.

Daily average ice concentration, or the percentage of the Great Lakes covered in ice, is measured using images from multiple satellites to create a daily composite, Wang said.

### The impact

Chicagoans could see more of the beach in the coming years, as low lake ice can cause more evaporation during the winter. The ecosystem and the shipping industry also could see effects.

### Weekend warmup

The cold snap last weekend helped push ice coverage levels close to average, but the upcoming weekend looks like it will be a mild one. WGN meteorologist Tom Skilling's forecast shows highs above freezing, reaching more than 50 on Friday.

Prior to the satellite era, ice coverage was measured using photos taken from airplanes.

Ice coverage normally peaks around mid-February and declines through March and April, and the lake eventually becomes ice-free by early May.

The mild winter is a stark contrast to the brutal cold of the past two winters: In 2013-14

ice coverage surpassed 90 percent. That winter was particularly cold, and is the third-coldest winter for Chicago since records began in 1872. Last winter saw extensive ice coverage as well.

The lack of surface ice isn't limited to Lake Michigan. Overall, the Great Lakes are less icy than in recent winters.

Though the past two winters were severe, Wang said he doesn't expect this winter to reach those intense levels. Those winters were abnormally cold, and Wang's forecasts show a maximum ice cover of 24 percent for Lake Michigan this year.

Even if ice for the Great Lakes has peaked, the lakes have still logged more ice cover than the winter of 2011-12, which had a maximum average ice concentration of 12.9 percent, said Wang. The long-term average maximum coverage for the Great Lakes system is 53.2 percent.

### WHY SO LOW?

The below-average ice cover on the Great Lakes is a combination of multiple weather phenomena, according to Jia Wang, an ice climatologist at an NOAA research lab. This includes the El Nino pattern underway. A warming of the waters of the Pacific Ocean near the equator affects weather around the globe.

In a typical El Nino event, Northern states often get warmer while Southern states often get wetter, according to NOAA. This winter's El Nino is one of the strongest measured by NOAA since 1950. Another winter with a very strong El Nino, 1997-98, also logged low ice cover on the Great Lakes, according to data from the Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab.

El Nino isn't the only factor affecting lake ice, though, Wang said. Other warming phenomena affecting the Great Lakes regions include the North Atlantic oscillation (fluctuation in air pressure regions in the Atlantic) and the Atlantic multi-decadal oscillation (increased surface temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean).

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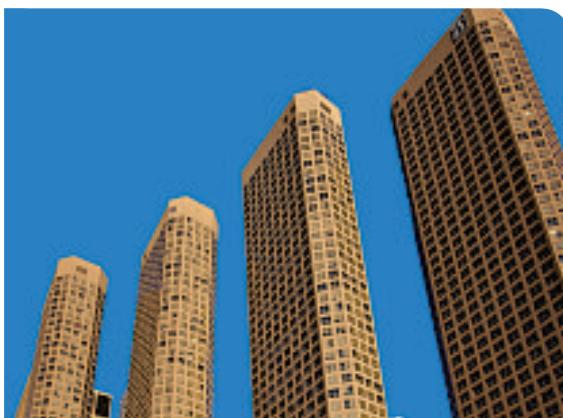
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## the chatter

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# threesome

## 3 PERSPECTIVES ON ONE RELATIONSHIP QUESTION

Welcome to "Threesome." Each week, we'll take a look at a relationship question from the public and have three panelists give their insights. Have a question to ask? Shoot it over to us on Twitter at [@redyechicago](https://twitter.com/redyechicago) or on our Facebook page. If it's a little more private, feel free to email it to [redeye@redeyechicago.com](mailto:redeye@redeyechicago.com) with the word "Threesome" in the subject line.

What do you think about starting a relationship one week before you leave on a six-month international trip? —Question via Reddit



**Akeem Lawanson**

Single, 30  
• Online producer and Snapchat aficionado at RedEye  
• @geekheavy

Starting a relationship before you leave for six months sounds like you're trying to hold someone's feelings captive until you return. I recall being in a similar situation with a girl, where I was leaving town for a month. We Skyped, talked on the phone and sent each other pictures and texts. We found ourselves always chatting while I was away. It made our bond stronger, and we ended up in a fantastic relationship that lasted a year when I got back. I would encourage you to do the same. Express your feelings and do your best to keep in touch while you're away. It's too much to ask of someone to put his or her life on hold while you're away for six months. Keeping things casual while you're gone will likely make for a stronger relationship when you return. If not, it was not meant to be.



**Fred**

Single, 35  
• Host of "Fred and Angie in the Morning" on 106.1 KISS-FM  
• @fredonair

Do not do it. Do not pass go. Do not collect the peso or euro or whatever they have where you're headed. There is no reason to initiate a romantic relationship immediately before you plan to be thousands of miles away from someone for an extended period of time. You are without question setting yourself up for heartbreak, frustration, confusion, lack of focus (and zero potential for sex). I believe in long-distance relationships when the trip is manageable and communication is easy—and I'd always prefer that a strong foundation be established before the time apart begins. While it isn't impossible, it's not advisable as these types of dynamics highlight insecurities and create adversity that is difficult to combat without trust, and complete trust can't be built in a week. And, while very "Hallmark Channel" of me to say, if it is meant to be, it can be when you get back in the same general area.



**Morgan Olsen**

In a relationship, 27  
• RedEye Eat & Drink, Lifestyles editor  
• @morganolsen

Importantly, you'll probably be glued to the phone or Skype when you should be soaking up every second of your trip. Imagine how you'd feel if things didn't work out with this person and you spent a good chunk of your getaway FaceTiming and bleeding data. No, thank you. Do yourself a favor and put this relationship on hold until you get back. And hey, if he or she isn't around when you return, it probably wasn't meant to be.



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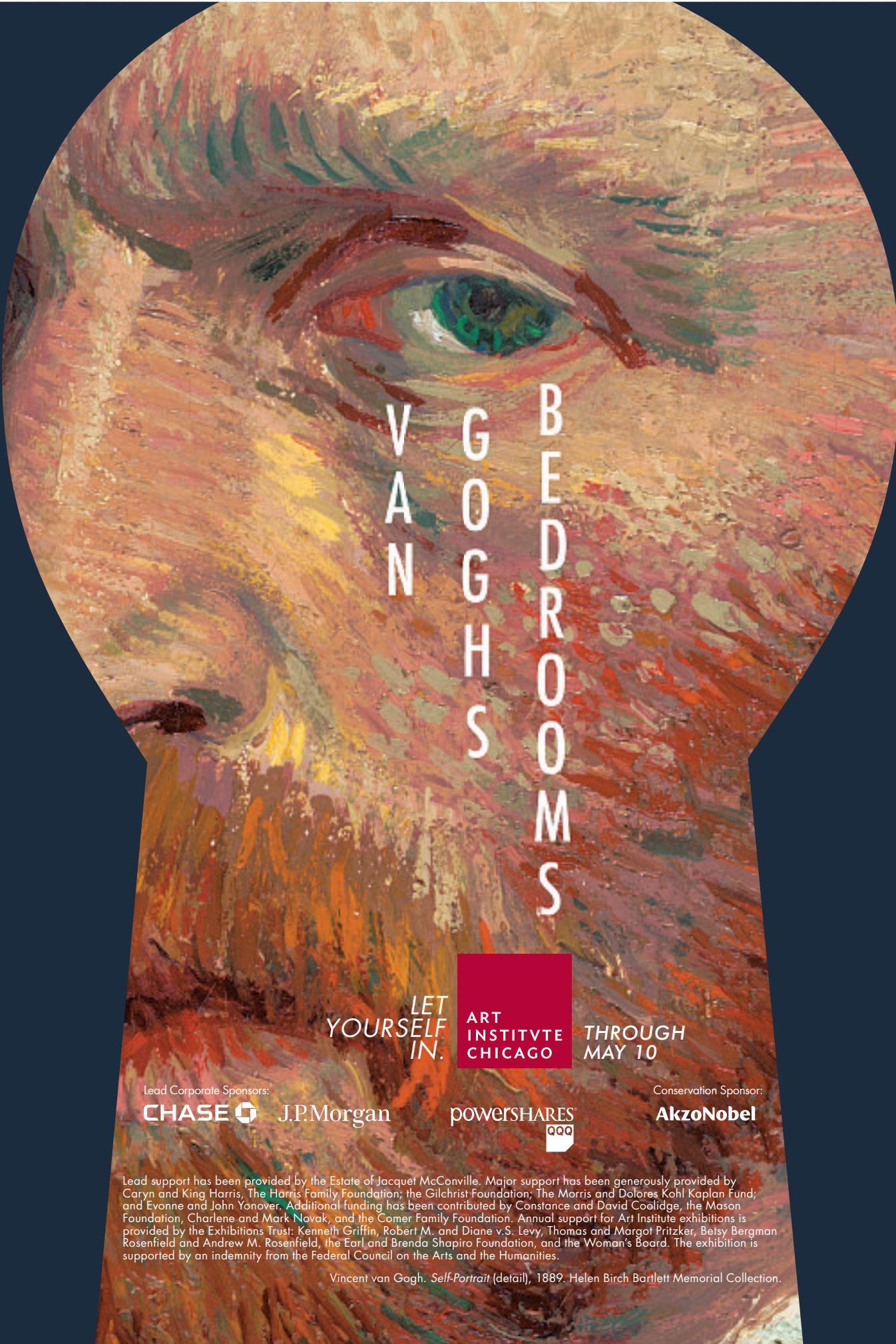
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Vincent van Gogh. *Self-Portrait* (detail), 1889. Helen Birch Bartlett Memorial Collection.



Bulls guard Derrick Rose makes a pass over Atlanta's Al Horford (from left), Mike Muscala and Jeff Teague. NUCCIO DINUZZO/TRIBUNE

# INFUL RE-BLOOM

## THIS D-ROSE LOOKS FAMILIAR, WHICH MAY LEAD TO MORE BULLS WINS

By K.C. Johnson | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Taj Gibson participated fully in the Bulls' first post-All-Star break practice Tuesday evening at the Advocate Center after leaving the last game with a strained left foot.

But the Bulls still are measuring the absences of Jimmy Butler and Nikola Mirotic by weeks as they begin their 30-game attempt to salvage a mostly lost season with a tough back-to-back at the Cavaliers on Thursday and home against the Raptors on Friday.

Two days after Pau Gasol closed All-Star weekend acknowledging such details thrust more responsibility on him and Derrick Rose, Rose went against the grain, saying such details won't change his approach.

That's semantics, which is fine if Rose's

statistics continue.

Rose is averaging 19.4 points, 6.8 assists and 5.6 rebounds in five games this month after posting his highest-scoring month in January at 17.6 points over 13 games.

"I love the way that I'm playing," Rose said. "It's all about just timing. I'm playing in consecutive games. I'm being smart about it."

Coach Fred Hoiberg sounded more like Gasol than Rose in saying he planned to utilize "a lot of two-man actions" with those two players. Hoiberg also cited Mike Dunleavy's return as having helped improve movement and spacing for an offense that has languished near the league's bottom all season.

The Bulls rank 26th in offensive efficiency.

"I just try to be as aggressive as I can. Try to run, speed up the game a little bit and have the trust in my teammates to follow behind me. I'm just going to play my game," Rose

### BEST MONTH YET

Despite a somewhat slow start, Derrick Rose's stats are on the upswing lately.

MONTH	GAMES	POINTS	REBOUNDS	ASSISTS
Oct./Nov.	13	13.4	3.4	5.9
Dec.	14	15.3	3.3	4.4
Jan.	13	17.6	3.2	3.3
<b>Feb.</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>6.8</b>

### WHY YOU SHOULD CARE

The Bulls have 30 games to build momentum before the playoffs begin, and they'll have to do so while shorthanded. That's why they need Derrick Rose to play close to his MVP former self.

said. "When I'm out there, try not to think about [Butler being out]. Read the game, try to play smart and give my all to win."

Rose answered "I believe so" when asked if the Bulls remain a championship-caliber team as constructed. The league's trade deadline is 2 p.m. Thursday, and teams the Bulls are

battling for lower-tier playoff spots such as Detroit and Charlotte made moves Tuesday.

"The big thing is getting the confidence back," Hoiberg said.

Hoiberg said he spent the break watching film of the Bulls' good and bad stretches. He noted how they have dropped drastically from fourth in defensive rating, ranking 20th since Jan. 1. They're tied for 10th overall.

"That's such a huge gap," Hoiberg said. "Usually, you stay in a certain range. But it's effort, communicating with each other, guarding the ball in transition. That's how we found a way to win close games earlier, with grit and determination."

Hoiberg said he's focused on putting in work and doing his job to the best of his abilities rather than outside criticism or frustration. There has been plenty of both, and the only way to stop it is with victories.

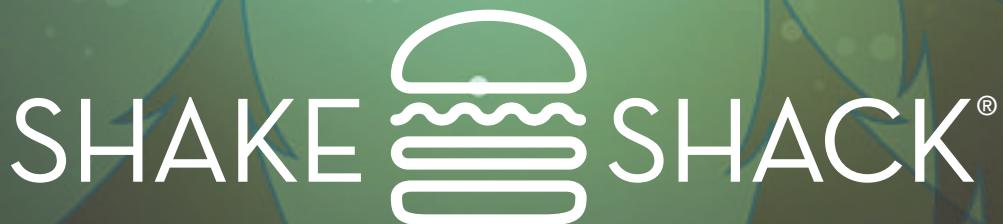
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## “I LOST 17, 18 POUNDS.”

—**Nikola Mirotic**, on the complications in the wake of his recent surgeries. After undergoing an appendectomy, the Bulls forward needed a second surgery to repair a hematoma in his stomach.



### Take the bus next time?

Spring training hasn't officially started and Kyle Schwarber's home runs are apparently already wreaking havoc. A Cubs fan posted a picture on Instagram on Wednesday of his car's broken windshield, saying a Schwarber batting practice home run did the damage. "Everyone took pictures and laughed at the idiot who parked there. I did the same." The Cubs commented on the post: "Sorry about that! :)"

### Nike bounces Pacquiao

Nike cut ties with Manny Pacquiao on Wednesday in the wake of the boxer's anti-gay comments, according to ESPN's Darren Rovell. "We find Manny Pacquiao's comments abhorrent," the company said in a statement. On Filipino TV earlier this week, Pacquiao said, "Have you seen any animal having male-to-male or female-to-female relations? If you have male-to-male or female-to-female [relationships], then people are worse than animals." He eventually apologized on Twitter.

**HOT DATE**

**NOV. 9**

That's when Northern Illinois will play Toledo in football at U.S. Cellular Field. It's the first time the stadium will host a football game, and ESPN will televise it.

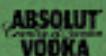


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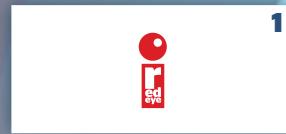
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2

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23

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Wednesday



3

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# music



## ‘GETTING INTO THE GAME’

**LONGTIME SUPPORTING ARTIST  
BJ THE CHICAGO KID STEPS OUT  
ON HIS OWN (WITH HELP FROM  
CHANCE AND KENDRICK)**

By Andy Downing | FOR REDEYE

# BJ

**the Chicago Kid admits to being a romantic at heart—**

“If you’re an R&B singer, c’mon, man, you know you love love,” he said in a late-January phone interview—so it’s fitting that the South Side native’s major label debut, “In My Mind” (Motown), out Friday, drops less than a week after Valentine’s Day.

Even a glance at the album’s tracklist confirms BJ’s romantic leanings, with songs such as “Love Inside,” “Heart Crush” and “The New Cupid” (featuring Kendrick Lamar) delving deep into matters of the heart. The soul-steeped record, which also features guest spots from Chance the Rapper and Big K.R.I.T., further establishes the Los Angeles-based singer as a solo force following years of behind-the-scenes work writing songs for and collaborating with the likes of Mary J. Blige and Chris Brown.

“This is really the first chapter,” said BJ, born Bryan Sledge and raised in Brainerd (and who declined to give his age). “The music always tells you what to do. You just gotta listen to it.”

**Your album drops the same week as Valentine’s Day. What’s your worst memory of the holiday?**

I really don’t even have one, man. I even miss Christmas and Thanksgiving a lot of the time [because] I’m always working. I work so many holidays I just hope and pray my family will be forgiving. [I’m] real family-oriented. On Thanksgiving, we’re all in the same house. Christmas, we’re all in the same house. Mother’s Day. Easter.

**This record is coming out on Motown. What weight does that word carry for you?**

No weight, honestly. I believe I was already a part of Motown before I signed on that paper.

The aggression. The love. The joy. The pain. All those feelings and emotions that come from the music are Chicago. Chicago pretty much made me the man that I am. It’s in my name. I have no choice but to accept and embrace that.”

That’s why they wanted me to be there. I just have to continue to be myself, man. I don’t feel like I have to change or walk in their steps. I just have to be BJ the Chicago Kid, and that’s good enough.

**Motown or Stax?**

Motown of course. No shade to Stax because, man, you can’t beat the vibe of that whole era. I just love how everyone with that Motown sound seemed to come from a two-block radius from the actual original location. The original location was a house, and then when

they outgrew it they bought the house next door and the house next door and the house next door until they had seven houses on the same lot. You come to that street and you could see Marvin Gaye hopping out of a limo and going to the choreography house or running to the finance house or running to the studio. That block became a piece of Hollywood in Detroit. I’m just honored to be a part of it and to add to the legacy, man.

**Are you starting to see a similar thing in parts of Chicago with the number of artists coming**

**out of the same neighborhoods on the South Side and having this national impact?**

Not necessarily, because Chicago right now is rap city. Back then there was singing and actual instrumentation; the music was different. I would not dare compare Chicago to that. It is two totally different things. Now it's the thick of trap. But I'm a musician at heart so I'll always choose Motown over trap.

**What role did Chicago play in shaping your sound?**

Ninety-five percent. The aggression. The love. The joy. The pain. All those feelings and emotions that come from the music are Chicago. Chicago pretty much made me the man that I am. It's in my name. I have no choice but to accept and embrace that.

**You and Chance appear together on "Church." Are you in the pew every Sunday?**

Not every Sunday. It's impossible to be in this industry and be there every Sunday. I was born at church. God is still in my life, period.

**Guys like Kendrick and Chance are people you have long-established relationships with. How important is it to have that comfort level with people when you're collaborating?**

I only collaborate with the people I rock with in life, period. I rock with people where I really respect their craft and respect what they're doing. That's what collaboration should start from. Nowadays collaboration is watered down. Collaboration should be where two dope entities are coming together and making something ... they couldn't make separately.

**You've worked with Kendrick a handful of times now. Do you feel like he draws out something different in you artistically?**

I believe we do that to each other. I think [he helps me] be more unpredictable musically. With him it's about having fun and letting the imagination go. Me personally, I'm always searching for something new. It only enhances who I am. Those are the types of musicians you should be around: people who are pushing and moving forward.

**The record opens with a speech about how you're not afraid of failure, and you get some sense from songs like "Falling on My Face" that coming up short really helped shape you in some way. Was that actually the case?**

No, not really. I didn't take too many losses. [Laughs.] I came to LA being a background singer and a songwriter, and I was successful at both. After working with some of the world's best artists, it was only right for me to step up to the plate and use my voice ... to get my music to the world.

**Even if it's rare, do you feel failure has taught you anything?**

## TOP 4 SONGS FEAT. BJ THE CHICAGO KID

The majority of BJ's efforts so far have been guest appearances, adding his lush tenor to songs by artists such as Kendrick Lamar, Kanye West, Schoolboy Q, Chance the Rapper and many more. RedEye has broken down the Top 4 examples of how BJ can improve a track.

### 4. CHANCE THE RAPPER, "EVERYBODY'S SOMETHING"

One of the many highlights off "Acid Rap," this track features BJ doing what he does best by providing one hell of an earworm hook.

### 3. FREDDIE GIBBS AND MADLIB, "SHAME"

On Freddie Gibbs and Madlib's 2014 album "Piñata," the single "Shame" found BJ's soulful hook tying everything together.

### 2. KEHHLANI, "DOWN FOR YOU"

On rising R&B singer Kehlani's Grammy-nominated album "You Should Be Here," one of the best tracks was her gorgeous collaboration with BJ the Chicago Kid.

### 1. KENDRICK LAMAR, "KUSH AND CORINTHIANS (HIS PAIN)"

Out of the entirety of Kendrick Lamar's 2011 effort "Section.80," "Kush and Corinthians (His Pain)" is one of its most subdued offerings. The song is carried by Lamar's precise flow and BJ's smoothly sung verse and outro.

—JOSH TERRY, REDEYE

Honestly, I've learned from results, period. Everything isn't a failure. Sometimes it just doesn't work. That's not a failure. Maybe it just means it wasn't its time. Personally, I get excited about getting things done. So many times I've had incredible ideas that just stayed in my head or stayed on a piece of paper. I'm just excited about getting into the game, man. You can't really do it watching the game or being on the bench. You have to get in and get hands-on.

**You've got a song on here titled "Heart Crush." Who was your first crush?**

My first crush was probably one of my teachers when I was a kid. [Laughs.]

**With this release coming out are you bracing yourself for the receiving end of that, where you could be another person's first crush?**

Wow. I never really think about it like that, but being an artist it's something I need to think about and be cautious of. It's cool, though. I'm not mad at it. [Laughs.]

ANDY DOWNING IS A REDEYE CONTRIBUTOR.

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# drink

## of the week

Bella Beez sparkling honey water (\$1.99-\$2.99) at various Chicago retailers (find yours at [bellabeezhoneywater.com](http://bellabeezhoneywater.com))

By Morgan Olsen | REDEYE

Confession: I hate LaCroix. And though I probably just asked for a dozen angry emails about pamplemousse this and apricot that, I remain unapologetically firm on my stance. My general disgust toward the beverage makes me skeptical of anything that's labeled "sparkling water." It's a good thing I was in a grab-and-get-the-hell-out mood at Whole Foods when I reached for a bottle of Bella Beez sparkling honey

water without examining the label too closely. Cool packaging, you know?

Of course, when I realized it was sparkling water, it was too late; I was warm, cozy and completely parched in my office cubicle. But to my surprise, the sweet nectar inside that bottle was unlike anything I'd tasted before. Crisp, light and punctuated with a hint of florally sweetness, it's the kind of thing you could sip all day.

And—drumroll, please—it's made here in

Chicago with honey from local bee-keeping service Westside Bee Boyz and bottling help from Filbert's Root Beer.

Bella Beez owner Niki Mohrlant said she's proud to support local businesses. As her own business expands and demand continues to rise, she's looking to beekeepers in the Midwest for more honey.

But behind the cute packaging and bubbly, honey-infused water, there's a deeper message: "The mission is about awareness and growing the bee population and not being afraid of them," Mohrlant said. "We want to teach people about bees."

Making bees look cool is a commendable task, but Mohrlant said she's up for the challenge.



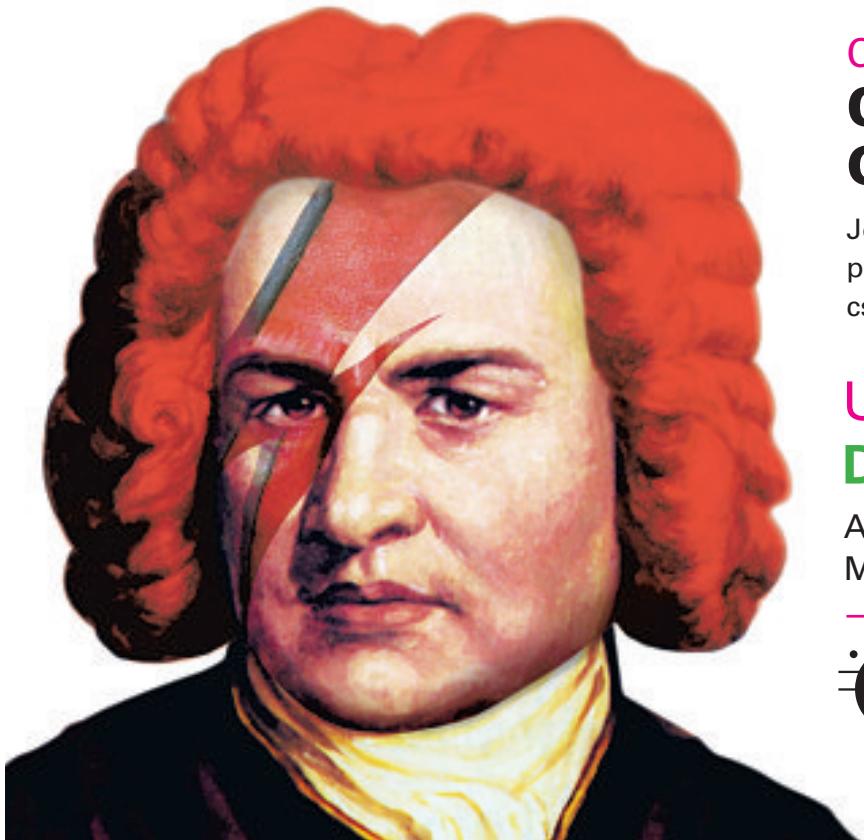
Now that you know the major players, you might be asking yourself, "Who's Bella?"

Friends of Mohrlant spent nearly two years trekking through the adoption process as a same-sex couple. And just as Mohrlant found the sweet spot with her sparkling water recipe, her friends were able to adopt their daughter Isabella. Their worlds collided, and Mohrlant decided Bella was a fitting name for her sweet drink.

Unlike most carbonated beverages, this one boasts just two ingredients: sparkling water and honey. It sounds too simple, like there must be a catch. But I assure you, there is not.

If you must complicate things: "It's really good with whiskey, too," Mohrlant said.

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WINTER SUCKS  
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## 10 ways to explore the world without leaving Chicago

By CourseHorse | EDITORIAL PARTNER

One of the best things about living in Chicago is you don't have to leave the Windy City to interact with people and cultures from all over the world. For those of us who are cash-strapped or saving up those vacation days to use over the summer, here are some great ways to travel the world this month without getting on a plane.

### Art

Take a trip across the Pacific and through time by visiting Bead in Hand for their Kumi-himo Japanese Braiding workshop (\$25). Used by ancient samurais as a functional and decorative way to lace their armor, you'll learn all the tricks and tips to make your own beautifully beaded bracelet or necklace.

Explore the ancient art of stone carving at The Fire Arts Center of Chicago's Beginning Stone Carving Workshop (\$285 for 10 sessions), where you'll learn the basic techniques for composing and carving small sculptures out of alabaster and other soft stones.

Travel back to mid-15th century Europe at Spudnik Press Cooperative's Etching & Intaglio Printmaking (\$225 for eight sessions) class to create images using metal plates. This technique was originally found on playing cards made in Germany, dating back to the late 1430s, and would later be used by goldsmiths to decorate armor, musical instruments and religious objects.

Or get in touch with your inner Indiana Jones at The Oriental Institute's Archaeological Reconstruction Drawing workshop (\$25). You can spend a Saturday afternoon creating a unique technical drawing of an ancient Egyptian pottery sherd from the Old Kingdom

under the guidance of a resident Ph.D. candidate in Egyptian archaeology.

### Cooking

Let your taste buds do the traveling at The Chopping Block Lincoln Square, where you can learn to perfect cuisines from Germany, France and Korea (all classes are \$80). At their Prost! Celebrating German Cuisine class, you can learn traditional German cooking techniques under chef Hans Mooser, who hails from Bavaria. Or their French Connection class will guide you through a refined yet hearty three-course meal, which will feel like a crisp night in Paris. Finally, you can explore Korea's explosive flavors at their Touch of Seoul class. You'll learn familiar Korean ingredients as you cook up traditional favorites such as bulgogi eggrolls, pork belly tacos and honey-sriracha chicken wings with sesame rice.

### Dance

If you're looking for a night on the town, brush up on your moves with these international dance classes. At Dance Center of Chicago's Waltz and ChaCha beginning class (\$12), you'll learn the smooth and progressive ballroom steps to the waltz, followed by the cheeky, sassy and fast cha-cha.

Visit South America at Old Town School of Folk Music's Brazilian Dance 1 class (\$160 for eight sessions), where you'll learn to samba and get your hips ready for next year's Carnival.

Or if you're in the mood for a Hawaiian vacation, head to Hula School of Chicago's Beginning Hula class (\$20) to learn the tips and tricks from the city's finest instructors.

FOR MORE CLASSES IN CHICAGO, GO TO REDEYECHICAGO.COM/COURSEHORSE.COM.



## ST. PATRICK'S DAY

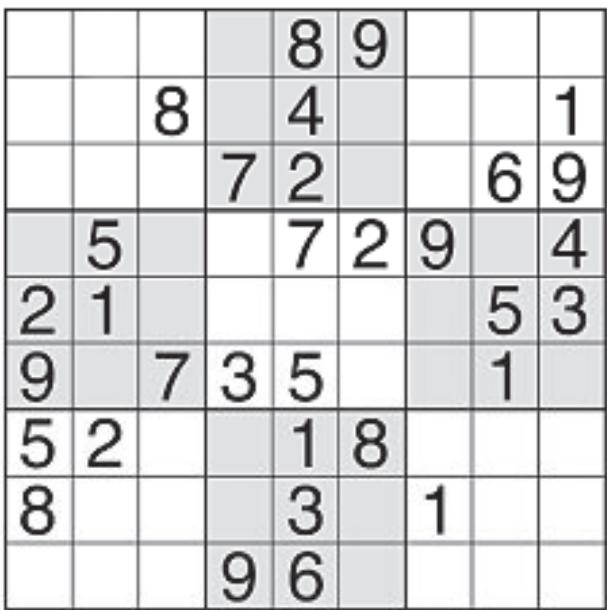
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## puzzles



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆



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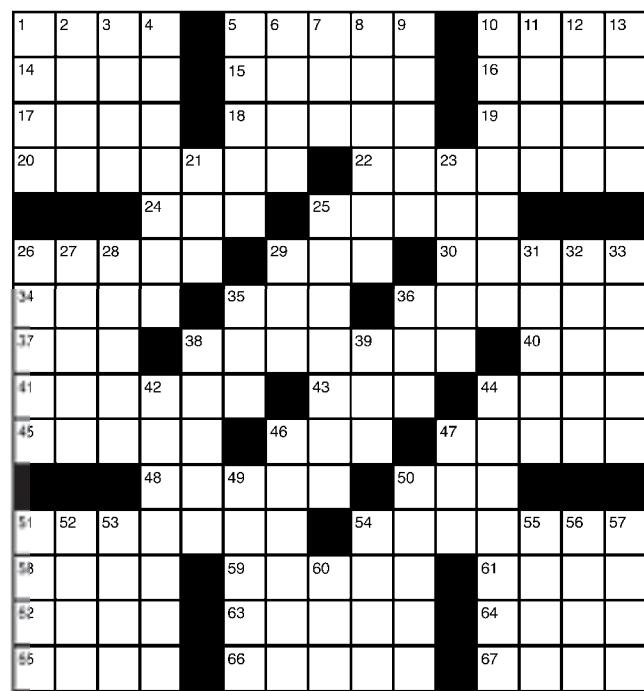


## ACROSS

- 1 Shoots carefully
- 5 Forest fire residue
- 10 Well-to-do
- 14 Make sharper
- 15 Passed out cards
- 16 Canyon sound
- 17 Wolf's solitary
- 18 Prettiest for view or action
- 19 Actor Marcel "Berney" Miller
- 20 Rejected with disdain
- 21 Curtain-topper
- 22 Debtor's note
- 23 Neighbor of India
- 24 Overcooked mille
- 25 Scouting group
- 26 Sandy shore
- 27 Subside
- 28 Annoy
- 29 Isrealites' leader after Moses died
- 30 \_'s first part of a play
- 31 Corpse
- 32 Building annex
- 33 Sent via USPS
- 34 Tit for \_
- 35 Hook or Crunch abbr.
- 36 Sits for an artist
- 37 Big \_ London attraction
- 38 a wet hen
- 39 Unclad
- 40 Hired vehicle
- 41 Baseball officials
- 42 Umbrella
- 43 Links cry
- 44 Lab bottles
- 45 Hit the ceiling
- 46 Ajar
- 47 Numskull
- 48 Goes astray
- 49 Aug.'s follower
- 50 Dweeb
- 51 Even scores

## DOWN

- 1 Pointed tools
- 2 Chain of family restaurants
- 3 List of dishes
- 4 Germfree
- 5 French farewell
- 6 Transmit
- 7 Stetson or fed



8	Five and six	28	Those opposed	47	Deface
9	Wristwatch part	29	Failure	49	Actor Bacon
10	Entertains sumptuously	31	Mea _; words of remorse	50	Flings
11	"See Clearly Now"	32	Mea _; words of remorse	51	Eerie saucers
12	In style	33	Stops	52	Sull
13	Bagel's center	35	Naughty	53	Get ready, for short
14	Assent silently	36	Fast airplane	54	Trudge
15	Toil	38	Actor Romero	55	Indira's robe
16	Canceled	39	Dick _ Dyke	56	Monster
17	Marshland	42	Not at all strict	57	Not as much
18	Pod used to make	44	Musical for Liza	60	Broadcast
19	chocolate	46	Next to		

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50-54	36.00	30.00	25.50	21.30	18.50	15.50	11.50	9.70
55-59	45.00	37.50	31.80	26.55	23.00	19.25	14.20	11.95
60-64	55.00	42.00	38.80	29.70	28.00	21.50	17.20	13.30
65-69	66.00	51.00	46.50	36.00	33.50	26.00	20.50	16.00
70-74	89.00	69.00	62.60	48.60	45.00	35.00	27.40	21.40
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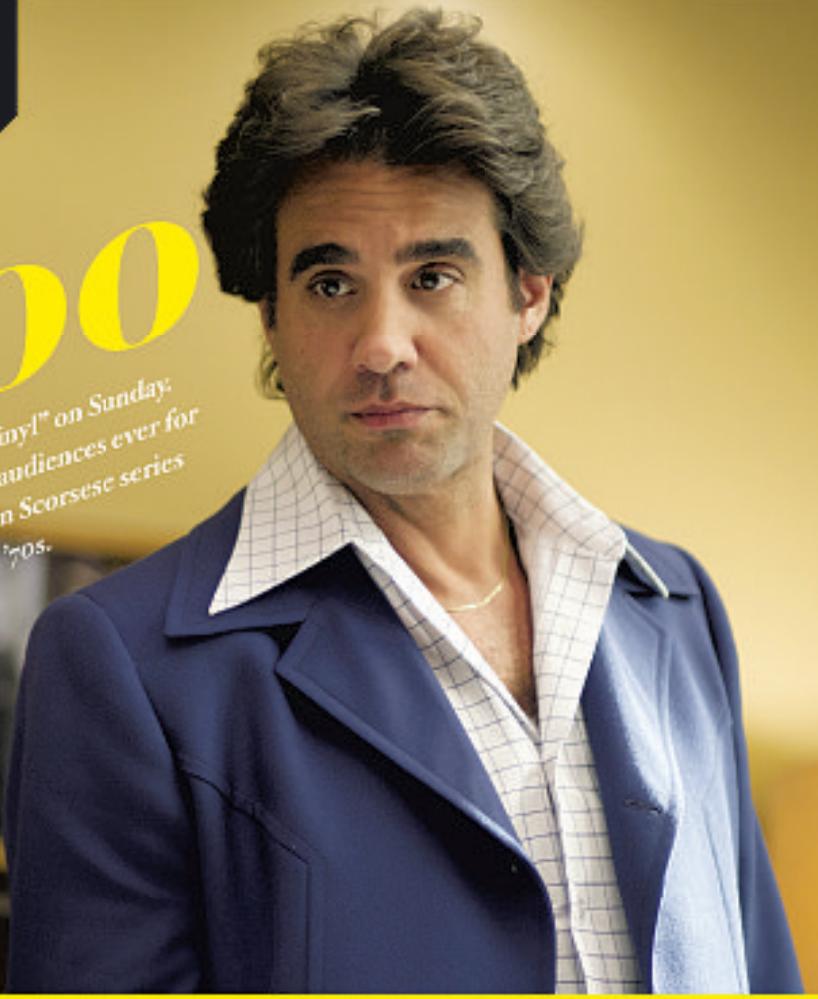
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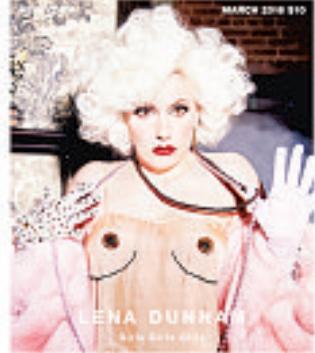
# red hot

THE DIGIT  
**764,000**

That's how many people tuned in to HBO's "Vinyl" on Sunday. According to [vulture.com](#), it's one of the smallest audiences ever for a first installment of an HBO drama. The Martin Scorsese series focuses on a record executive in the '70s.



## PAPER



### 'This is what I look like'

Lena Dunham, creator of HBO's "Girls," talked to Jane Fonda in an interview for Paper magazine about body image issues and being the target of body shaming. According to [eonline.com](#), Dunham plans to continue stripping down on the show despite Internet ire. She said, "I think that it was important to me also to announce that 'this is what I look like. I don't have an interest in changing unless it's on my own terms.'" Dunham appears on the March cover of Paper magazine. The fifth season of "Girls" premieres Feb. 21.

### INSTAGRAM



### 'Guardians 2' is underway

Director James Gunn Instagrammed a photo for "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" on Wednesday. Although the photo doesn't show Kurt Russell, Gunn confirmed that Russell is part of the sequel. "My favorite movie as a small child was The Strongest Man in the World, so I'm glad to announce that, yes, Kurt Russell has joined our cast and, yes, he is more awesome a dude than I ever could have imagined," Gunn wrote. Oh, we're so excited.

### THE QUOTE

**“**I really wish I woulda knew he was outside, I would've went out there with a mic, you know, brought him in."



—Tyga, to Jimmy Kimmel on Tuesday, clearing the air about how Paul McCartney was denied access to his Grammys after-party, according to [usatoday.com](#). The rapper said a fire marshal was to blame.

### Creative consultants, what?

North West, 2, and Saint West, 2 months, are listed as "creative consultants" on Kanye West's new album, "The Life of Pablo." According to [eonline.com](#), the duo got first billing. That's cool. Getting an early start in the business. We're sure they had tons and tons of say.

This is not the most absurd thing to happen in the news relating to Kanye West lately, so whatever.

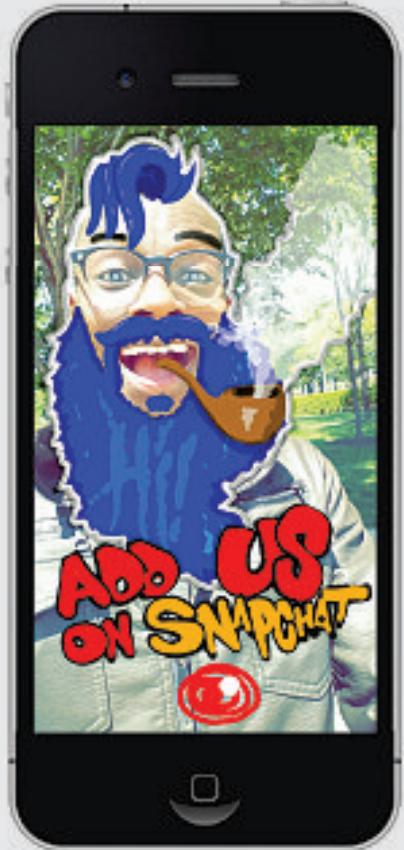


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